



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **KENTUCKY SETS RECORD WITH TELL SURVEY**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky teachers' and principals' participation in the TELL ([Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning](#)) Kentucky Survey set a record for first-time response rates on similar surveys.

According to the [New Teacher Center](#) (NTC), the non-profit organization that administers the survey, Mississippi previously held the highest record for first-time response rate, with 67 percent participation. Kentucky's overall response rate was 80.27 percent. Of the total 52,353 educators eligible to participate, 42,025 completed the survey. Additionally, 91 percent of Kentucky schools met the minimum response rate threshold of 50 percent and will be able to use their own school results for annual school improvement planning.

"I am extremely pleased with the rate of response from Kentucky's teachers and administrators," said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. "The value of this survey lies in participants' honest evaluation of their teaching conditions. Because we expect every principal and teacher to create and sustain positive conditions for learning in every classroom, we must be able to measure those conditions.

"Addressing teaching conditions in our schools and districts will improve student learning results, reduce teacher turnover rates and make a long-term impact on the economy of Kentucky. All of the participants – along with our education partners – should be congratulated and commended for their work on this survey."

See data related to the survey at <http://www.tellkentucky.org/reports/>.

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**Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>.**

## Page 2 – TELL Kentucky Results

The results will be used by school-based decision making councils, schools, districts, KDE, Kentucky Board of Education and numerous other organizations to improve the teaching and learning conditions in the state's schools and districts. However, the results will not be used to form a score as part of an accountability model for schools and districts. .

All schools and districts across the state were able to view their results April 25 using pass codes. NTC provided tools for assistance in using the data, such as a School Improvement Guide and a District Guide. All tools and results can be viewed at <http://www.tellkentucky.org>. As follow-up, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) will provide webcasts and technical support on use of the data.

The Kentucky Board of Education will review the preliminary findings at its June meeting for potential state policy and budget impacts.

"The collaborative work of the education leaders in Kentucky, under the strong leadership of the Governor and the commissioner, should be commended," said Eric Hirsch, chief of External Affairs for NTC. "Not only has Kentucky set a new record for overall response rate percentages for first-time administration of the survey, the large number of schools and districts obtaining the minimum threshold will provide valuable data as the TELL Kentucky Coalition of partners continues its work to help ensure that every school provides the supports necessary for all students to be successful."

According to NTC, early analyses of the results indicate that, overall, educators are positive about their teaching conditions.

- 93 percent agree they work in a school environment that is safe.
- 94 percent agree the school leadership facilitates using data to improve student learning.
- 92 percent agree that teachers are encouraged to try new things to improve instruction.

However, there are areas of concern expressed by educators. For example, only 63 percent of educators agreed that there is sufficient time for instructional planning to meet the needs of all students.

The final report from NTC, which will include information related to student achievement as well as other key indicators such as years of experience of teachers and comparison to the results from the administrator portion of the survey, will be available in the fall.

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### Page 3 – TELL Kentucky Results

Of the state's 174 school districts, 128 districts had every school reach the minimum threshold for response rate. Seventeen districts – along with the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf – had 100 percent response rates:

- Augusta Ind.
- Bellevue Ind.
- Boyle Co.
- Bracken Co.
- Carter Co.
- Casey Co.
- Cumberland Co.
- Elliott Co.
- Fulton Co.
- Graves Co.
- Logan Co.
- Magoffin Co.
- Menifee Co.
- Murray Ind.
- Robertson Co.
- Russell Ind.
- West Point Ind.

To encourage large response rates, the Kentucky Education Association, Kentucky Association of School Administrators, Kentucky School Boards Association and Jefferson County Teachers Association contributed prize money for weekly drawings. School districts, schools and school-level educators received \$1,000 cash awards in weekly drawings. The TELL Kentucky Survey provided a unique, anonymous opportunity to gather information about school working conditions from those whose views matter most -- practicing educators.

From March 1 to March 28, the TELL survey was administered to all Kentucky certified educators employed in the state's 174 school districts. All school-based certified public school teachers and principals were asked to submit their perceptions on a variety of issues related to student achievement and teacher retention, including the adequacy of facilities and resources; time; empowerment; school leadership; community support; student conduct; professional development; mentoring and induction services; and student learning.

The survey was administered by the [New Teacher Center](#) (NTC), a national organization dedicated to supporting the development of a high-quality teaching force. NTC has conducted similar surveys in other states and provides induction and professional development for teachers and principals across the country. Since 2008 NTC has administered the teaching conditions survey in eleven states, hearing from almost 500,000 educators.

TELL Kentucky was conducted under the leadership of the Kentucky Department of Education and supported by a coalition of education organizations, all of whom believe that it is critically important to listen to educators' views when shaping school improvement strategies.

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**Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>.**

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The Coalition Partners are:

- Governor Steve Beshear, Commonwealth of Kentucky
- Kentucky Board of Education
- Kentucky Department of Education
- Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board
- Kentucky Education Association
- Kentucky Association of School Councils
- Kentucky Association of School Administrators
- Jefferson County Teachers Association
- Kentucky PTA
- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Kentucky School Boards Association
- Kentucky Association of School Superintendents
- Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
- Partnership for Kentucky Schools
- Prichard Committee

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## **MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE TELL KENTUCKY SURVEY**

Link to survey results and data: <http://www.tellkentucky.org/reports/>

- 42,025 (80 percent) educators responded to the TELL Kentucky Survey.
- Of nearly 1,400 schools, 1,245 met or exceeded the 50 percent response rate necessary for data to be available.
- Of 174 school districts, 128 had every school reach the minimum threshold for response rate.
- 1,800 administrators responded to the survey (1,057 principals, 743 assistant principals).

### **Major Trends**

Overall, educators are positive about their teaching conditions:

- 93 percent agree they work in a school environment that is safe.
- 83 percent indicate they intend to continue teaching at their current schools.
- 80 percent agree the faculty and leadership have a shared vision.
- 94 percent agree the school leadership facilitates using data to improve student learning.
- 86 percent agree that the school council makes decisions that positively impact instruction (i.e. curriculum, instructional practices).
- 92 percent agree that teachers are encouraged to try new things to improve instruction.

### **Major Concerns**

Early analyses indicate there are concerns across the state. For example, in the area of Time:

- Only 51 percent agree that efforts are made to minimize the amount of routine paperwork teachers are required to do.
- 63 percent agree that teachers have sufficient instructional time to meet the needs of all students.
- 68 percent agree that teachers are protected from duties that interfere with their essential role of educating students.

### **Survey Areas**

- Time
- Facilities and Resources
- Community Support and Involvement
- Managing Student Conduct
- Teacher Leadership
- School Leadership
- Professional Development
- Instructional Practices and Support
- New Teacher Support

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